

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9494
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05574

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO CHINESE NPC MEETING

REF: MOSCOW 5333

SUMMARY: SOVIET PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INDICATE
SOVIETS WERE NOT SURPRISED AT NPC PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING
ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS MADE DURING SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PRC'S
NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONFERENCE (NPC) MEETING IN PEKING HAS
ACKNOWLEDGED AND CRITICIZED THE CONTINUITY OF "MAOISM,"
INCLUDING ANTI-SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY EXPRESSED AT NPC.

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A SOVIET CHINESE SPECIALIST WHO SERVED THREE TOURS IN
CHINA TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRIMARY ATTENTION AT NPC WAS
DEVOTED TO DOMESTIC ISSUES. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE SAID,
THE NPC INDICATED NO CHANGE IN CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY
WHICH WILL REMAIN THE SAME "FOR A LONG TIME." SOVIET
SOURCE THOUGHT THAT "SHOW OF UNITY" AT NPC MERELY
PAPERED OVER ONGOING STRUGGLE WITHIN THE CHINESE LEADER-

SHIP.

2. TO DATE, SOVIET MEDIA REACTION TO NPC (CONTAINED IN TOKYO DATELINED MARCH 8 TASS ARTICLE REPRINTED IN MARCH 9 PRAVDA; MARCH 5 TASS ARTICLE DATELINED PEKING; AND APN MARCH 10 ARTICLE) HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIMITED. IT HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRINCIPLE TASK SET FOR THE SESSION WAS TO ESTABLISH THE DIRECTIONS IN BUILDING A POWERFUL CHINA THROUGH EFFECTING THE "FOUR MODERNIZATIONS," PARTICULARLY MILITARY MODERNIZATION. ARTICLES POINT TO ALLEGED CONTINUING PURGE OF GANG OF FOUR SUPPORTERS IN CHINA TO HELP "DOCUMENT" ONGOING POWER STRUGGLE IN CHINA. MARCH 5 TASS AND APN ARTICLES CONCLUDE BY CRITICIZING HUA KUO-FENG'S ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS. MARCH 20 TASS ARTICLE DN SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) STATES THAT "THE LATEST SESSION OF THE NPC INDICATES THAT HOSTILITY TO THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO BE ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF STATE POLICY OF CHINA."

3. COMMENT: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON NPC INDICATES MOSCOW WAS NOT SURPRISED BY SESSION'S RESULTS, INCLUDING ANTI-SOVIET ASPECTS. WE NOTE THAT AUTHORITATIVE AND VERY CRITICAL "ALEKSANDROV" ARTICLE FOLLOWED THE JANUARY 1975 FOURTH PRC SESSION AND WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS ARE PREPARING A SIMILAR ARTICLE NOW.
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4. FOR THE RECORD, WE WOULD TAKE EXCEPTION TO ROMANIAN STATEMENT (REPORTED PEKING 0694) THAT ONE LINE BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO YEH AND HUA REPRESENT FIRST TIME IN THE LAST TEN YEARS THAT SUCH MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT. WE NOTE THAT KOSYGIN, FOR EXAMPLE, SENT A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM TO HUA IN EARLY 1976 FOLLOWING HUA'S APPOINTMENT AS PRC PREMIER. THE KOSYGIN MESSAGE ON THAT OCCASION, AS REPORTED BY PRAVDA, ALSO CARRIED AN APPEAL FOR "NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS" AND A RETURN TO "GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS" - ITEMS THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S SUPREME SOVIET-NPC MESSAGE (REFTEL). TOON

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